

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 262744

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 7536 ACTION SECSTATE 15 OCT 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 7536

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, MASS, JO, LY
SUBJECT: LT GEN BIN SHAKER: THE LIBYAN CONNECTION

1. I SAW BIN SHAKER BRIEFLY ON OCTOBER 12 AND
ASKED HIM TO REVIEW FOR ME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA. BIN SHAKER SAID
HIS THREE-MAN TEAM IS COMPLETING ITS FINAL REPORTS
AND PROVIDED THE SAME INFORMATION WHICH THE KING
HAD PASSED ON TO ME--LIBYAN TRAINING IS IN A MESS,
THE LIBYANS WANT TO RETURN TO A WESTERN SYSTEM,
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THEY BADLY NEED HELP FROM SOMEWHERE AND JORDAN
BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LEAVE THEM
ONLY WITH SOVIET OR CUBAN OPTIONS.

2. BIN SHAKER ALSO SAID THAT QADDHAFI AND THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RCC DIRECTED THE RECENT
CONFRONTATION WITH EGYPT PERSONALLY FROM TOBRUK, THAT THE

PRESENT CHIEF OF STAFF IN LIBYA WAS COMPLETELY CUT OUT BUT THAT ALL OF THE ARMY BRANCH CHIEFS (INFANTRY, ARMOR, ENGINEERS) AND ALL OF THE BATTALION COMMANDERS REPORTED TO THE ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE RCC. THE SENIOR OFFICERS (COLONELS) WERE JADED, POORLY MOTIVATED AND INEFFICIENT. SOME OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS WERE BETTER IN MOTIVATION AND SKILL. THE LIBYANS HAD GREAT COMMAND AND CONTROL WEAKNESSES AND POOR ORGANIZATION IN THE ARMED FORCES. MAINTENANCE WAS BAD. THE LIBYANS HAD RETREATED IN THE FACE OF EGYPTIAN PRESSURE--THEIR SOLDIERS WILL NOT STAND AND FIGHT.

3. THE NEXT STEP IS FOR BIN SHAKER TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE KING. HE SAID HE CURRENTLY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BEST TO SEND A SMALL TEAM BACK TO LIBYA TO SEE JUST HOW FAR THE LIBYANS ARE PREPARED TO GO IN REVAMPING THEIR FORCES AND EXACTLY WHAT COURSES THEY WISH TO HAVE TAUGHT. AFTER THE JORDANIANS REVIEW THE COURSES REQUIRED THEY CAN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH JORDANIAN INSTRUCTORS SHOULD BE SENT. BIN SHAKER IS CONCERNED ABOUT SENDING ONLY THE BEST MEN HE CAN FIND. HE KNOWS THAT HIS PEOPLE WILL BE UNDER A MICROSCOPE AND WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE QUICKLY. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE LIBYANS

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WILL TEST THE LOYALTY OF HIS PEOPLE AND HE WILL WANT TO BE VERY SURE OF THOSE HE SENDS. HE WILL ALSO RECOMMEND THAT JORDANIAN SCHOOLS AT ALL LEVELS BE OPENED TO THE TRAINING OF LIBYAN OFFICERS AND MEN AS APPROPRIATE COURSES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN JORDAN. PICKERING. UNQUOTE VANCE".

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